

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently amended) The inflator of claim ‡ 18 wherein the fluid is a combustible gas mixture that is ignitable for providing inflation fluid, the igniter, upon actuation, igniting the combustible gas mixture.

Claim 3 (Currently amended) The inflator of claim ‡ 18 wherein the second passage extends radially through the diffuser endcap, relative to the chamber extends along a longitudinal axis of the tubular body portion of the inflator, the valve housing extending radially into the structure and defining a radially extending fill passage through the second passage such that the fill passage extends generally perpendicular relative to an extent of the first passage that extends through the diffuser endcap.

Claim 4 (Currently amended) The inflator of claim ‡ 18 further including a plug for sealing the fill passage of the valve housing, the plug being spaced away from the valve member in a direction outward of the fluid chamber.

Claims 5-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently amended) The inflator of claim 6 18 wherein a third passage extends through the igniter endcap, a rupturable isolation disk closing the third passage and preventing flow of the fluid out of the fluid chamber through the third passage, combustion products generated from actuation of the igniter rupturing the isolation disk and entering the fluid chamber through the third passage to heat the fluid in the fluid chamber.

Claims 10 and 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently amended) The inflator of claim 1 18 wherein the valve housing defines a valve chamber, a plurality of fingers having inwardly bent end portions defining the valve chamber, the valve member located in the valve chamber and movable toward the inwardly bent end portions of the fingers for enabling the flow of fluid into the fluid chamber of the inflator in the valve chamber relative to the valve housing.

Claim 13 (Currently amended) An inflator comprising:

structure defining a fluid chamber, first and second passages extending through the structure to the fluid chamber; a fluid stored under pressure in the fluid chamber;

a device closing the first passage and being actuatable for enabling fluid to flow out of the fluid chamber through the first passage; and

a fill valve having a valve housing, a valve member, and a plug member, the valve housing received in the second passage and defining a fill passage, the valve housing including a plurality of fingers having inwardly bent end portions, the fingers defining a valve chamber in which the valve member is located, the valve member when located in a first position in the valve chamber, adjacent the end portions of the fingers, enabling flow of the fluid through the fill passage of the valve housing into the fluid chamber, the valve member when located in a second position in the valve chamber and preventing the flow of fluid out of the fluid chamber through the fill passage, the plug member sealing the fill passage of the valve housing after the fluid is introduced into the fluid chamber through the fill passage, the plug member being spaced away from the valve member outward of the fluid chamber.

Claim 14 (Original) The inflator of claim 13 wherein a portion of the plug member is located in the fill passage of the valve housing.

Claim 15 (Original) The inflator of claim 13 wherein the fluid is a combustible gas mixture that is ignitable for providing inflation fluid, the inflator also including an

igniter that is actuatable for igniting the combustible gas mixture.

Claim 16 (Currently amended) The inflator of claim 13 wherein the fluid chamber extends axially along a longitudinal axis, the valve housing extending radially into the structure relative to the longitudinally axis and defining a radially extending fill passage.

Claim 17 (Currently amended) The inflator of claim 13 wherein the valve housing of the fill valve assembly includes an outer portion, the outer portion forming the widest part of the valve housing and including a surface that leads to the fill passage, the plug member including a first portion that is located in the fill passage and a second portion that abuts the surface of the outer portion.

Claim 18 (New) An inflator comprising:

a tubular body portion having axially spaced first and second ends, an igniter endcap secured to the first end of the tubular body portion and a diffuser endcap secured to the second end of the tubular body portion, the tubular body portion, the igniter endcap, and the diffuser endcap collectively defining a fluid chamber, first and second passages extending through the diffuser endcap;

a burst disk closing the first passage in the diffuser endcap;

a fluid stored under pressure in the fluid chamber;

an igniter supported by the igniter endcap and spaced axially away from the burst disk, the igniter being actuatable for opening the burst disk for enabling fluid to flow out of the fluid chamber through the first passage,

a fill valve having a valve housing and a valve member that is movable relative to the valve housing, the valve housing being received in the second passage of the diffuser endcap and defining a fill passage for enabling fluid flow into the fluid chamber, the valve member, when located in a first position relative to the valve housing, enabling the flow of the fluid through the fill passage into the fluid chamber, the valve member, when located in a second position relative to the valve housing, preventing fluid flow out of the fluid chamber through the fill passage.

Claim 19 (New) The inflator of claim 13 wherein the fill passage of the fill valve includes first and second tapered portions, a large diameter portion and a small diameter portion interposed between the first and second tapered portions, the valve member being located in the first tapered portion when in the second position for preventing the flow of fluid out of the fluid chamber through the fill passage, the plug member being located in the second tapered portion and in the large diameter portion of the fill passage when the plug member seals the fill passage.